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COMIC SHOP NEWS™

TEAM 7

The New 52's Magnificent Seven

There's a popular subcategory of popular literature devoted to the concept that everything you know is wrong. Whether the subject is history, politics, medicine, or science, these books take a point of purported "common knowledge" and then prove it to be inaccurate.

Justin Jordan is the New 52's "everything you know is wrong" guy. His job is to establish the truth about New 52 history, and he's doing just that in the pages of the new series ***Team 7***.

If the title sounds familiar, you're probably recalling the Wildstorm series that focused on a covert ops team operating in the early days of sa superhero universe. That concept is still at the core of ***Team 7***, but the universe and the operatives have changed. "***Team 7*** starts a bit after *Grant Morrison's* initial run on ***Action Comics***," Jordan said. "The team is partly formed as a reaction to the events depicted in those issues. That doesn't mean that the team is an anti-Superman squad—just that Superman making his presence known to the DCU was an out-of-context problem for the government. Its not just that they didn't know he existed—they didn't know anything like him *could* exist! So they're scrambling to develop plans and protocols and to understand what this means."

Who are the members of the team, and why was each chosen? "Well, we've got Dinah—she's basically their infiltration expert," Jordan said. "If they need to get into someplace, Dinah is the woman who's going to do it.

"Kurt Lance is their tracker. If something needs found, it's him who does the finding. He's worked with Dinah before the series starts, and they both play a big role in assembling the team.

"Slade Wilson is Team 7's heavy combat expert. He's the big gun of the group, and takes point in firefights and other situations that fit his skillset.

"Alex Fairchild is the *unarmed* combat guy. While he's perfectly good with shooting people, he's there for when you want people *hurt*, not *dead*.

"Amanda Waller is an analyst with the NSA. Her job on the team is to collect and interpret information. She assesses threats and what needs to be done about them.

"Cole Cash has a blend of the same skills as Fairchild and Wilson, but he has the added advantage of being able to charm people and get what he wants without force.

"John Higgins is a military intelligence officer; he's essentially the field leader. Lynch tells the team what they need to do, but it's generally Higgins who will plan how to do it.

" Steve Trevor is actually one of the characters who changes the least in the book. Out of all the members of the group, he's probably the person who handles what happens to him in Team 7 the best.

"Summer Reyes is an ace pilot—so, as you might expect, she gets people where they need to go.

"James Bronson is, basically, the utility player. He's not a specialist at any one thing, but he's pretty good at a *lot* of things, so he can assist anyone. James is a guy with links to an established character although if you want to know which one, you'll need to read the comic to find out!

"And John Lynch—he's the leader. He conceived of and manages Team 7, so he decides where they deploy... and when.

"As you can see, there aren't just seven members in ***Team 7***.

"The concept for the team comes from fairly high up in the US government, but the actual structure and personnel were selected by Lynch, who went from being a medium level operative with some funny ideas to a team leader overnight. Team 7 is one approach the government takes to deal with the superhuman problem. But it's not the *only* approach. So there are other teams out there—although we might not get to meet them in Team 7.

"Ultimately, this team exists as a way to explore how the government deals with the emergence of superhumans. Basically, they're winging it, and the powers that be are watching what they do to see what works and what doesn't work."

One quality that all of the operatives in the team share, however, is that "they are all standard issue humans," Jordan said, before adding enigmatically, "At first."

What is the team's attitude towards these new superheroes who seem to be popping up all over the DCU? "It varies," Jordan said. "Some of the characters are scared, some are curious, and some are flat out indifferent. But having said that, attitudes will change over the course of the series. Amanda Waller's feelings about superhumans at the beginning of ***Team 7*** are not what they will be when she forms the ***Suicide Squad***. That's one of the key things the series is about; how the emergence of superpowers affects people and the world they live in."

For Jordan, landing the ***Team 7*** assignment was like a dream come true. "I was always a pretty big WildStorm fan, especially once it started getting into the more covert ops side of things. The Dixon series actually remains one of my favorite comics from the '90s, so getting to revamp the Team for the new DCU is pretty awesome—and, truth be told, a little intimidating because I like the original so much. Doing something that lives up to the original without being a total retread is pretty daunting."

Did Jordan have to conduct a little research into the current roles of these characters in the New 52 DCU in order to make these early tales dovetail with current continuity? Is there some master board with all sorts of timelines and flowcharts sketched out on it in his office, a la Rip Hunter? "It was more like *a lot* of research!" Jordan corrected. "I bought every copy of every comic the characters appear in the new DCU, so I could make everything fit together. So yes, there's a legal pad here in my office with lots of notes on it. It has not yet allowed me to control time, but I keep hoping."

As Jordan said earlier, the initial focus of ***Team 7*** is on those early days of the New 52 DC Universe—but is there any chance that ***Team 7*** might shift its focus to the present-day DCU in future story arcs? "I can't say a heck of a lot about it, but we *absolutely* have a long term plan about where we're taking the book and how an ongoing book set in the past works. So I guess my answer there would be a very unsatisfying 'wait and see.'"

Team 7 #0, which launches the series (and is available in comic shops right now), presents a slightly different lineup that includes Steve Trevor, a familiar face to ***Justice League*** readers. By the time the first issue reaches shops on October 10th, however, the lineup will shift slightly as Kurt Lance joins the team for "Battlefield Gamorrah." Then ***Team 7 #2***, a November 14th release, will follow the team into the heart of darkness to stop the evil that the Black Diamond will unleash (an Eclipso reference, perhaps?). Each issue is written by *Justin Jordan* and illustrated by *Jesus Merino*.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

COMIC SHOP NEWSARAMA

Produced by *Comic Shop News* in cooperation with *newsarama.com*

Uncanny Information

For a couple of months now, we've known that the first major title to spin out of the events of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** would be ***Uncanny Aveugers***, a team book featuring members from both groups. Now Marvel has revealed more about the books, its focus, and its membership in the lead-up to its October 10th debut.

What leads to the creation of an amalgamated team comprised of both Avengers and X-Men? "The origin of this team isn't like most groups, where somebody is consciously picking people," writer *Rick Remender* said. "Their first adventure is actually the reason they come together—and it's all happenstance. Cap is actively trying to do something to mend the fences and to build a bridge between the mutant community and the Avengers. Of course, things don't go as planned, and the Red Skull makes everything very terrible for everybody. Chaos ensues—and by the end of that chaos, we start to see a good reason or two why this team *should* exist, and why they *do* exist."

While it's pretty obvious why Captain America and Thor are members of a new Avengers team, Remender explained the reasons for some of the team choices. "The events of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** and the end of the current arc of ***Uncanny X-Force*** do things to Wolverine. He's still Wolverine, but obviously there are going to be some character developments and changes abased on the events he has endured."

As for the Scarlet Witch, "Wanda's obviously on that redemption arc," Remender said. "And here's somebody who really was one of the first mutants to join the Avengers; she's been an Avenger forever. She's not necessarily

in a situation where she can get the prominence or respect she's owed, because of her father and her inclusion in the Brotherhood. But more importantly, because she went crazy and zapped the powers away from millions of mutants. So she's got a really interesting dilemma she's up against..."

Why Havok? "As we've said, Alex is going to take a leadership role. Talk about a promotion... He's basically being promoted to a position that he doesn't want—and running an Avengers team is a pretty big deal."

And Rogue remains disturbed, upset and conflicted about what has happened in ***Avengers Vs. X-Men***—in fact, Remender said that as the series begins, "She's not dealing with certain events very well. She's almost more Wolverine than Wolverine in this book."

Editor *Tom Brevoort* stressed that these six members "are not the only characters who will be in the ***Uncanny Avengers*** book and on the team. There are two or three characters who will be showing up as we get into later issues—characters who are pretty crucial to the crew and where they go and what they do, but whom we're not quite ready to reveal just yet."

As Brevoort explained, ***Uncanny Avengers*** is an important part of Marvel NOW, and it helps to differentiate this event from earlier event stories like ***Dark Reign*** and ***Secret Invasion.*** "This is a more broad initiative," Brevoort said. "It's really as much about the creators and their vision as it is about what's going on in the Marvel Universe. It's about new guys in new places, working on new characters and new books and bringing a new excitement to what's going on. Really, it's as much about a global refresh of the publishing line as much as it is or more than it is about what's going on within the Marvel Universe.

"That having been said, ***Uncanny Avengers*** is the kickoff book for a reason. It's new front to back—it didn't exist before... It's a direct outgrowth of ***AvX***. You'll be able to have readers go fairly seamlessly from ***AvX #12*** the week before to ***Uncanny Avengers #1*** a week later and see immediate connective tissue between the two. It underscores the fact that this is the same Marvel Universe and the same bunch of characters we've been following all along."

Brevoort added that the book is a sort of model for the relationship between the Avengers and the X-Men franchises post-***AvX:*** there will be less separation and more interaction between them in the aftermath of the twelve-part series.

While the Uncanny Avengers are officially an Avengers team operating out of Avengers Mansion, Remender stressed that their mission is built around Professor Xavier's original intentions. "This is really why Xavier sent the X-Men out in costumes in the first place. He did this to make a statement—to show people that mutants are just the same as everyone else. They're just as heroic, but better. They're out here in costumes, risking their lives to save the world... This is really stepping back into that in a big, public way that's never been done before... They even have a PR unit. These guys are going to have to do things they're not comfortable with to help maintain an image and status quo conducive to helping people quit being afraid of mutants."

Don't expect to see all prior conflicts between these characters fall by the wayside., however. "There's obviously something between all of them," Remender said, "and it's obviously not something I can hit right from arc one. It will go on into arc two and three, where the interpersonal dynamics and those relationships will then start cross-pollinating with these plot beats."

Why is the Red Skull the first villain the Uncanny Avengers confront? "The Red Skull has an anti-mutant agenda," Remender said. That's really just an extension of who and what this guy was coming out of Nazi Germany... The Skull is sort of using that philosophy in a modern-day context, and he's jonesing to take the mutants off the board. There's not as many of them, but they're still the boogeyman he can get behind and sow hatred and fear and dissent in order to build his power base.

"He's gathered a group of followers, all of whom have bad experiences in their lives involving mutants, and all of whom have been amped up and modified to be the Skull's own version of the X-Men. But they're pretty much preaching the opposite side: humans and mutants cannot live together ,and that this is a race war that mankind is going to lose unless everybody lines up behind him."

The Red Skull's presence will go beyond the first story arc. "That was one of the goals from the beginning," Remender said. "Not just to make the Red Skull relevant, but make him the threat he deserves to be. And that spreads across the Marvel Universe."

Any chance that major X-Men villains might show up as well? "We're going to hit the balance pretty quickly," Remender said, as it was revealed that both Kang the Conqueror and Apocalypse would play a role in future storylines.

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Published weekly since 1987 by Comic Shop News, Inc.

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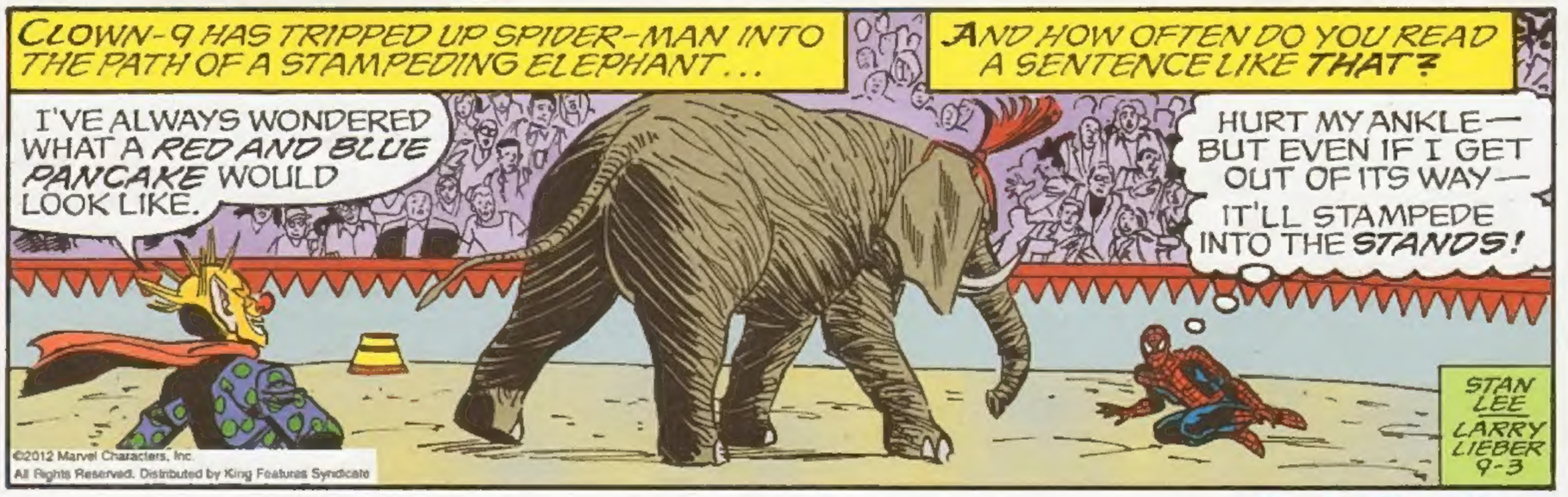
SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & LARRY LIEBER


CLOWN-9 HAS TRIPPED UP SPIDER-MAN INTO THE PATH OF A STAMPEDING ELEPHANT...
AND HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ A SENTENCE LIKE THAT?
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHAT A RED AND BLUE PANCAKE WOULD LOOK LIKE.
HURT MY ANKLE— BUT EVEN IF I GET OUT OF ITS WAY— IT'LL STAMPEDE INTO THE STANDS!
STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-3

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Remender stressed that ***Uncanny Avengers*** "is going to look and feel like a classic ***Avengers*** or classic ***X-Men*** book, but in a modern setting, all mashed together like a chocolate-swirly cone."

Artist *John Cassaday* will offer visual redesigns for many of the team players. "With most of these characters—but not every single one—John had a lot of influence," Brevoort said. "Really, the Thor doing here is the Thor that Esad has tweaked up for the ***Thor: God of Thunder*** book." Similarly, Cassaday modified the Captain America design produced by *Jerome Opeña* for ***Avengers***. Scarlet Witch, however, was given a much bolder redesign, since her prior costume was determined to be impractical. Remender added that he's proud that the women in ***Uncanny Avengers*** aren't dressed in a way that "makes them look like strippers."

Uncanny Avengers #1 is scheduled for October 10th release.

Hooray for JLA!

More than five decades ago, DC launched the first Silver Age superteam ongoing series, ***Justice League of America***. And in 2013, that venerable title will return again with a new character lineup and a new focus.

Written by *Geoff Johns* and illustrated by *David Finch*, ***Justice League of America*** "is a very different kind of team book," Johns said. "On first glance, people might think the heroes of the ***Justice League of America*** stand in the shadows of Superman, Wonder Woman and the rest of the ***Justice League***, but Green Arrow, Katana, Martian Manhunter, the new Green Lantern, Stargirl, Vibe, Hawkman and Catwoman *thrive* in the shadows. They're underdogs who have everything to prove and something to lose. They're a team of unlikely heroes who will help one another discover they're as A-List as anybody – yes, even Vibe. Though getting there won't be easy.

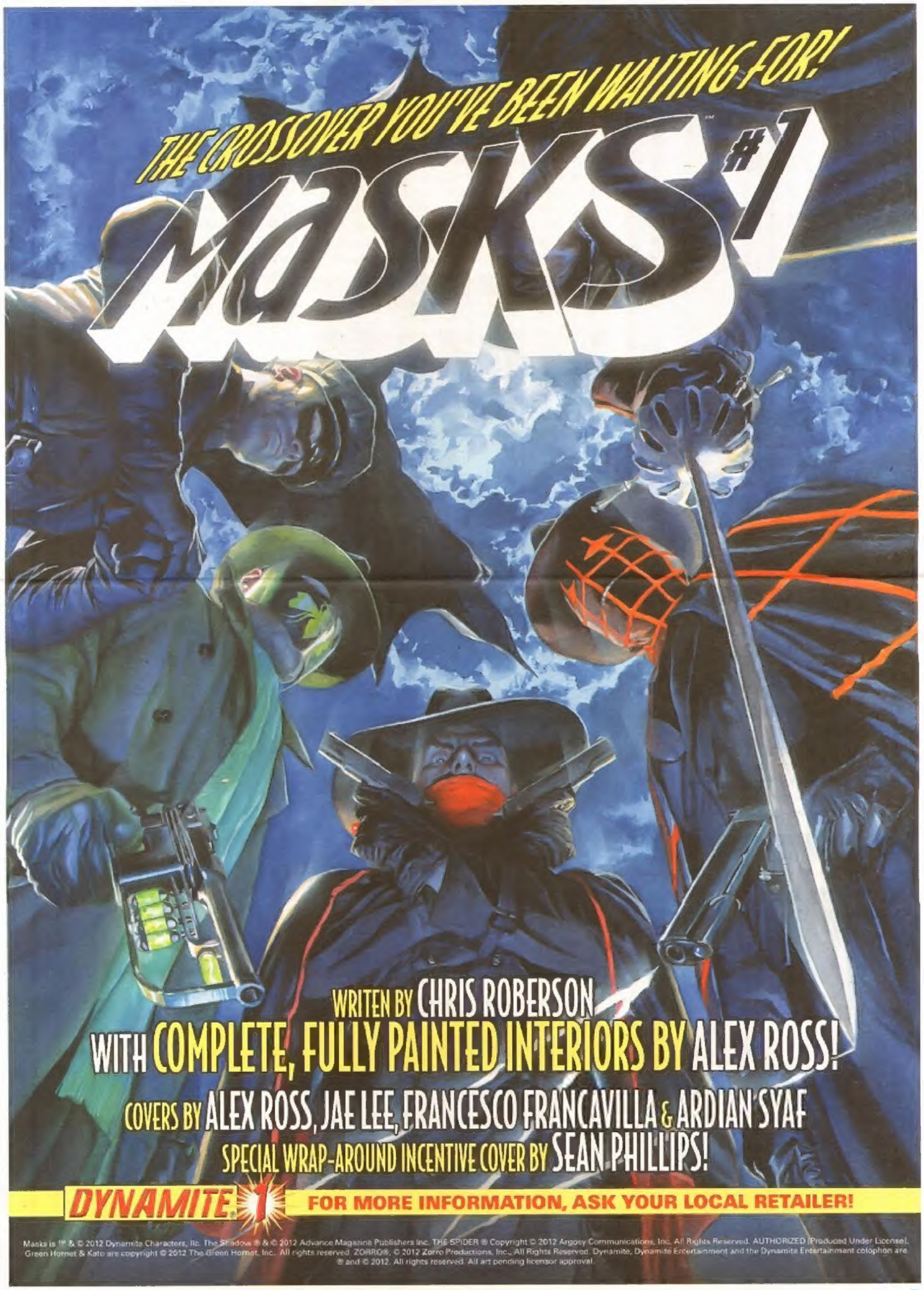
"Why they're formed, why each member joins, what they're after and who the society of villains is they're trying to take apart will all be clear in the first issue when it hits early 2013. David and I are really focused on delving deep into what it's like to not be a member of the big seven and why, sometimes, the grass isn't always greener on the other side."

The addition of ***Justice League of America*** brings the New 52's League count back up to three: ***Justice League***, ***Justice League Dark***, and ***Justice League of America*** (filling the gap left by the recently-ended ***Justice League International***). Johns told mtvgeek that ""all three of those books will be set in the same universe, and things will be tying into one another. We've got some plans for that, but I don't want to get too ahead of ourselves yet, though.".

When asked if the three teams might be facing off against each other in 2013's ***Trinity War***, Johns said enigmatically, "It could be, but you're a little off... How's *that* for an answer?"

Of particular interest to *Geoff Johns* fans will the addition of Stargirl to the team, since this is a New 52 take on one of Johns' first projects for DC. Johns said that the new Stargirl got her start on Hollywood Boulevard, but she is the antithesis of Hollywood, because she's a true hero and not all image and illusion.

Justice League of America #1 is slated for early 2013 release.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MASKS #1
WRITEN BY CHRIS ROBERSON
WITH COMPLETE, FULLY PAINTED INTERIORS BY ALEX ROSS!
COVERS BY ALEX ROSS, JAE LEE, FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA & ARDIAN SYAF
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"In the *Hellraiser* ongoing title, Kirsty Cotton, the 'final girl' of the first two films, has gone from being a Cenobite-hunter to being a Cenobite herself," Seifert said. "***Hellraiser: The Road Below*** is a 'Year One' story focusing on Kirsty's early days as a Cenobite, and the ramifications of her choices.

"The miniseries is set up sort of like a new *Hellraiser* movie, but with Kirsty now in the role of Pinhead. It ties into the continuity of the ongoing title — but it's designed to stand alone and be new-reader friendly, especially for people who like the movies but haven't tried the comics!"

For Seifert, the chance to write a *Hellraiser* project was too attractive to pass up. "From a personal angle, *Hellraiser* is one of those horror franchises I grew up on, and it means a huge amount to be to be contributing to it now. I had a lot of fun writing the lead story in April's ***Hellraiser Annual***, and I'm really excited to explore the world of the Cenobites and Kirsty Cotton in more detail..."

Hellraiser: The Road Below #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for mid-October release.

Before Watchmen: The Moloch, the Merrier

DC has revealed a new addition to the seven-book *Before Watchmen* line: ***Before Watchmen: Moloch,*** a two-issue miniseries slated to debut in November, courtesy of writer *J. Michael Straczynski* and artist *Eduardo Risso*. For those who might not know, Moloch is a villain in the Watchmen Universe; in fact, he's already made cameo appearances in ***Before Watchmen: Comedian*** and ***Before Watchmen: Ozymandias.***

Seifert Hits the Road to Hell

Horror readers are very likely familiar with *Brandon Seifert's* offbeat macabre title ***Witch Doctor*** from Image Comics. This October, however, Seifert scares up some new chills in the pages of Boom Studios' ***Hellraiser: The Road Home,*** a four-part series that explores the early Cenobite experiences of Kirsty Cotton.

CSNsider

•*Garth Ennis* reunites with artist *Darick Robertson* to bring ***The Boys*** to an end with the 72nd issue. Readers of *CSN* know that Ennis has said for several years that he was building up to a big finale planned for ***The Boys #72,*** and it's finally here when our hero meets his destiny, Stillwell finds out the real cost of doing business, and Rayner begins her long-dreamed-of political career.

"I finished ***The Boys #72*** well over a year before it's due to see print," Ennis said, "and I've been missing Butcher and Hughie ever since. Goodbye, ***Boys***. I doubt we'll see your like again."

"The end of ***The Boys*** with this issue ends a chapter in my career I will always look back upon as a significant challenge," Robertson added. "I am proud of the work I've done on the book and will miss it."

The Boys #72 is slated for mid-November release.

•*Bill Sienkiewicz* will take over as inker of ***Before Watchmen: Nite Owl*** with the third issue, replacing *Joe Kubert*, who passed away in August. ***Before Watchmen: Nite Owl #4*** will be rescheduled for a mid-December release.

•*Ed Brubaker* has announced his departure from Marvel Comics for the time being. ""To end all speculation, ***Captain America #19*** and ***Winter Soldier #14*** are my last books for Marvel for now," Brubaker tweeted. "But I may return, because Marvel has been my home." He added that "my next comic project, beside ***Fatale***, will be announced in December or January..." Marvel has announced that *Jason Latour* will take over as writer of ***Winter Soldier*** after Brubaker's departure.

•*Rob Liefeld* has announced his departure from DC Comics; his final work at DC will appear in the zero issues of ***Deathstroke, Grifter,*** and ***The Savage Hawkman.*** No word yet on who will replace him.

Back to Press

•***Amazing Spider-Man #692 2nd Printing*** (JUL128161), featuring a variant cover by *Humberto Ramos*, in stores 10/3.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men #1 7th Printing*** (JUL128090), featuring a variant cover by *Jim Cheung*, in stores 9/19.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men #2 7th Printing*** (JUL128091), featuring a variant cover by *Jim Cheung*, in stores 9/19.

•***Avengers Vs. X-Men #3 4th Printing*** (JUL128092), in stores 9/19.

•***Batman #8 2nd Printing*** (JUL128163), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 9/26.

•***Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe #3 2nd Printing*** (JUL128002), in stores 9/19.

•***Deadpool Kills the Marvel Universe #4 2nd Printing*** (JUL128003), in stores 9/19.

•***Gambit #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL128004), in stores 9/19.

•***Harvest #1 2nd Printing*** (JUL128128), in stores 9/26.

•***Justice League #12 2nd Printing*** (JUL128164), featuring an all-new variant cover by *Jim Lee*, in stores 9/26.

•***Revival #1 3rd Printing*** (JUL128088), in stores 9/19.

•***Walking Dead #101 2nd Printing*** (JUL128121), in stores 9/19.

twitter.com/csnsider

ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #1

Sholly Fisch (W); Cully Hamner (A)

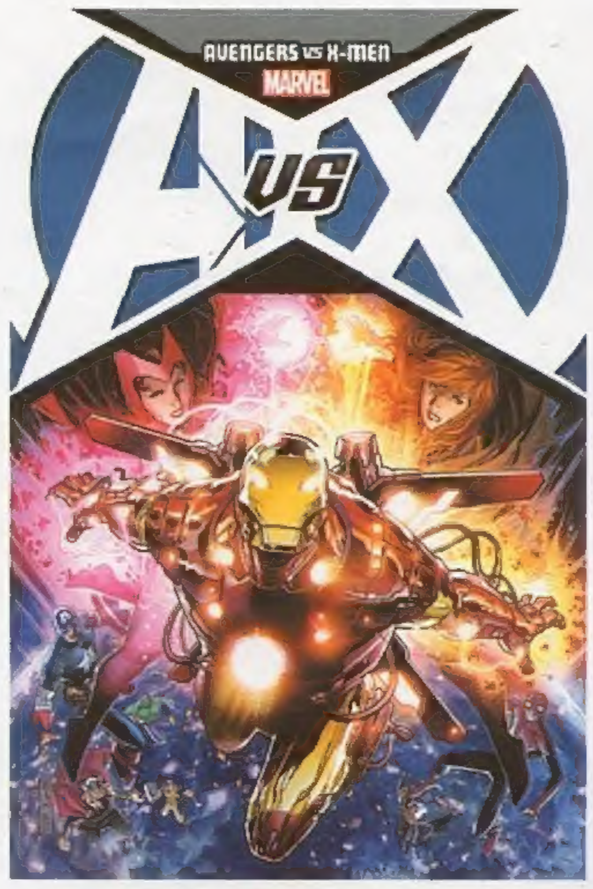
(DC AUG120168 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Learn more details about the missing five years between Clark's arrival in Metropolis and his place in the present-day New 52 DCU.

Why Should You Care?

Sholly Fisch & Cully Hamner add more pieces to *Grant Morrison's* fascinating puzzle with this tale that also introduces the Kryptonite Man.



AVENGERS VS X-MEN #12 (OF 12) AVX

Ed Brubaker (W); Olivier Coipel (A)

(Marvel JUL120535 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

It all comes down to one final battle.. but oh, what a battle it is!

Why Should You Care?

How do we get from the battle royale of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men*** to the brave new world of Marvel NOW? We'll have a much clearer picture by the end of this pivotal issue!

BATGIRL #13

Gail Simone (W); Ed Benes (A)

(DC AUG120190 $2.99)

BATGIRL ANNUAL #1

Gail Simone (W); Ed Benes (A)

(DC AUG120191 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batgirl meets Catwoman for the first time, while the Talon that Barbara faced during Night of the Owls returns on a quest for revenge.

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CSN TOP COMICS: OCTOBER

BATGIRL #13

Gail Simone (W); Ardian Syaf (A)

(DC AUG120139 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batgirl and Catwoman are on the trail of a mysterious killer who's targeting the criminal underworld of Gotham City. Can they stop the killer before he strikes again?

Why Should You Care?

Gail Simone's ***Batgirl*** remains one of the most engrossing of all the Bat-books—which is no surprise, considering what a thoroughly fascinating character Barbara Gordon has become! No other Bat-title went through as many New 52 changes as ***Batgirl***—but now it's hard to imagine anyone else other than Barbara in the uniform!

BATMAN #13

Scott Snyder (W); Greg Capullo (A)

(DC AUG120180 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The man who crippled Batgirl and killed Robin is back, with his face (more or less) restored. And wait 'til you see what he has in store for Batman and those who fight alongside him!

Why Should You Care?

The shocking mutilation of the Joker in ***Detective Comics #1*** made it clear right out of the gate that the New 52 DCU was a very different place than the DCU we had known prior to ***Flashpoint.*** And now he's back, more deadly than ever—and you know that *this* Joker would do *anything* to *anyone!*

BEFORE WATCHMEN: COMEDIAN #4 (OF 6)

Brian Azzarello (W); JG Jones (A)

(DC AUG120143 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: DR MANHATTAN #2 (OF 4)

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Adam Hughes (A)

(DC AUG120133 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: MINUTEMEN #4 (OF 6)

Darwyn Cooke (W/A)

(DC AUG120137 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: RORSCHACH #2 (OF 4)

Brian Azzarello (W); Lee Bermejo (A)

(DC AUG120129 $3.99)

BEFORE WATCHMEN: SILK SPECTRE #4 (OF 4)

Darwyn Cooke (W); Amanda Conner (A)

(DC AUG120140 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The formative experiences of the Watchmen continue in five weekly installments as one *Before Watchmen* miniseries comes to a close.

Why Should You Care?

Each series is fascinating on its, thanks to the passion that the all-star creative team brings to the project—but when you read the entire saga, the interlinked story elements form a complex literary tapestry.

CHARLES BURNS' HIVE GN

Charles Burns (W/A)

(Pantheon AUG121252 $21.95)

What's the Scoop?

Doug's already-strange life takes an even more disturbing turn when he finds himself trapped in a nightmarish alternate reality in which he's a lowly employee carting supplies around the Hive.

Why Should You Care?

Charles Burns, whose disturbing horror tale *The Black Hole* proved him a master of the graphic novel, continues the twisted tale he began in the surreal *X'ed Out.* If you think that horror comics are limited to splatterpunk, zombies, and vampires, then you're in dire need of some Burns...

DAREDEVIL: END OF DAYS #1 (OF 8)

Brian Bendis (W); David Mack, Klaus Janson, Bill Sienkiewicz, & Others (A)

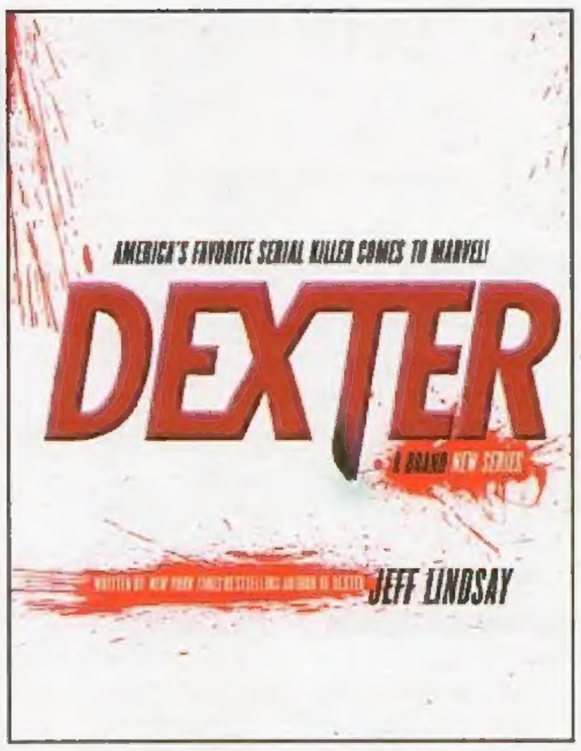
(Marvel AUG120637 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Reporter Ben Urich has one final story to write: what was Matt Murdock's final secret?

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis presents the final adventure of the Man Without Fear. Don't look for a brutal tale of mayhem and vengeance, though; Bendis delivers a tale that's every bit as thought-provoking as his acclaimed run on ***Daredevil.*** And to give the book illustrative gravitas, he's enlisted some of DD's most prestigious illustrators to supply the visuals.



DEXTER #1 (OF 5)

Jeff Lindsay (W); Dakbor Talajic (A)

(Marvel AUG120649 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Dexter Morgan tries to balance his life as a forensic blood-spatter analyst and a deadly arbiter of ultimate justice, carrying out executions in his own inimitable way, with a little guidance from the Dark Passenger that only he can hear.

Why Should You Care?

Think you know *Dexter* from the hit Showtime series? Then you *really* need to read this adaptation of the novel that inspired the series—an adaptation scripted by ***Dexter*** novelist *Jeff Lindsay* himself! (And let's face it—if there *were* a Punisher in the real world, he'd be much more likely to be like Dexter, not Frank Castle!)

EVIL ERNIE #1

Jesse Blaze Snider (W); Jason Craig (A)

(Dynamite AUG120971 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

A quiet guy who kept to himself snaps and launches a brutal killing spree. Problem is he get caught just one killing short of the number necessary to complete his deal with the devil. So what's next for Ernest Fairchild?...

Why Should You Care?

Jesse Blaze Snider gives ***Evil Ernie*** a new origin, a new story angle, and a macabre twist that elevates this former supporting character to a potential horror icon.

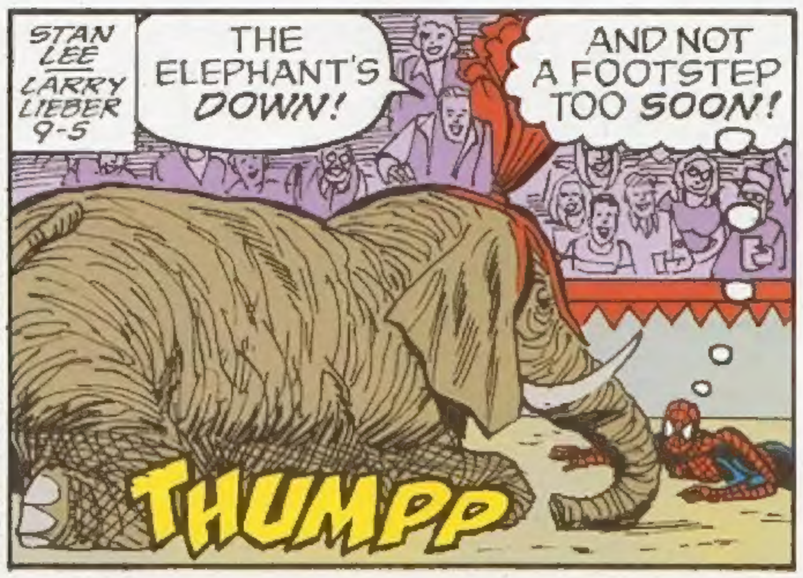
GHOST #1

Kelly Sue DeConnick (W); Phil Noto (A)

(Dark Horse AUG120043 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The enigmatic ghost, joined by a pair of paranormal investigators, seeks out the crystal powered machine that first conjured her, hoping for clues about her past life. But the machine's original owners have other plans...



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Why Should You Care?

Kelly Sue DeConnick takes the "Ghost" angle seriously in this revamp of one of Dark Horse's most popular characters—and there's no better artist for the book than *Phil Noto*, whose clean-line graphics perfectly complement Ghost's bold design.

GRIMM FAIRY TALES: SLEEPY HOLLOW #1

Ralph Tedesco (W); Alan Otero (A)

(Zenescope AUG121418 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

When a prank goes wrong, those responsible learn the truth behind the legend as the Headless Horseman returns to exact vengeance in his own inimitable way...

Why Should You Care?

Washington Irving's classic tale gets the ***Grimm Fairy Tales*** treatment in this edgy updating from *Ralph Tedesco*, writer of ***Salem's Daughter.***

JOE KUBERT PRESENTS #1 (OF 6)

Joe Kubert, Brian Buniak, & Sam Glanzman (W/A)

(DC AUG120236 $4.99)

What's the Scoop?

A mix of superhero adventure, war tales, human interest drama, and humor, ***Joe Kubert Presents*** is a mix of material created by Kubert and tales he personally selected for inclusion in the anthology series.

Why Should You Care?

Active until the very end of his life, *Joe Kubert* was always thinking ahead to his next project. This is one of the final series Kubert envisioned—an anthology that offered him the opportunity to return to characters he helped to shape (such as Hawkman and Sgt. Rock), as well a vehicle to present new concepts and creations.

JUSTICE LEAGUE #13

Geoff Johns (W); Tony Daniel (A)

(DC AUG120146 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

What happens with Superman and Wonder Woman after ***Justice League #12's*** shocking conclusion? And how does it affect the League?

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns radically changed the relationship dynamic with his revelation of a Superman-Wonder Woman relationship, and suddenly ***Justice League*** is the hottest romance comic in decades! Oh, yeah—it also has superheroes and ***Trinity War*** foreshadowing and the appearance of the new Cheetah...

MACGYVER: FUGITIVE GAUNTLET #1 (OF 5)

David Lee Zlotff & Tony Lee (W); Will Sliney (A)

(Image AUG120462 $3.50)

What's the Scoop?

Television's ingenious hero comes to comics in an adventure that finds him caught up in a case of industrial espionage that results in McGuyver becoming the target of a million-dollar hit.

Why Should You Care?

Screenwriter, producer, and director *David Lee Zlotff*, creator of ***McGuyver,*** brings his television concept to comics in this original series. (Hey, if it worked for *Joss Whedon!...)*

MARVEL NOW POINT ONE #1

Brian Bendis, Matt Fraction, Jeph Loeb, Nick Spencer, Kieron Gillen, Dennis Hopeless (W); Steve McNiven, Michael Allred, Ed McGuinness, Jamie McKelvie, Salvador Larroca, & others (A)

(Marvel AUG120546 $5.99)

What's the Scoop?

Avengers Vs. X-Men is over, and NOW's the time for Marvel's next chapter!

Why Should You Care?

Marvel has enlisted pretty much its entire A-list writing team to offer readers a sample of what they can expect as Marvel NOW unfolds over the next several months.

NON HUMANS #1 (OF 4)

Glen Brunswick (W); Whilce Portacio (A)

(Image AUG120465 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

A quarter-century after an alien infection brought legions of toy-like objects to life, the world is a very different place. Human and non-humans struggle to find their own place in a world where neither seems to trust the other.

Why Should You Care?

Glen Brunswick, writer of the film ***Frequency*** and such comics projects as ***Gray Area*** and ***Jersey Gods,*** returns with a four-issue series that comes across like ***Toy Story*** reimagined by *Philip K. Dick...*

PHANTOM STRANGER #1

Dan DiDio (W); Brent Anderson (A)

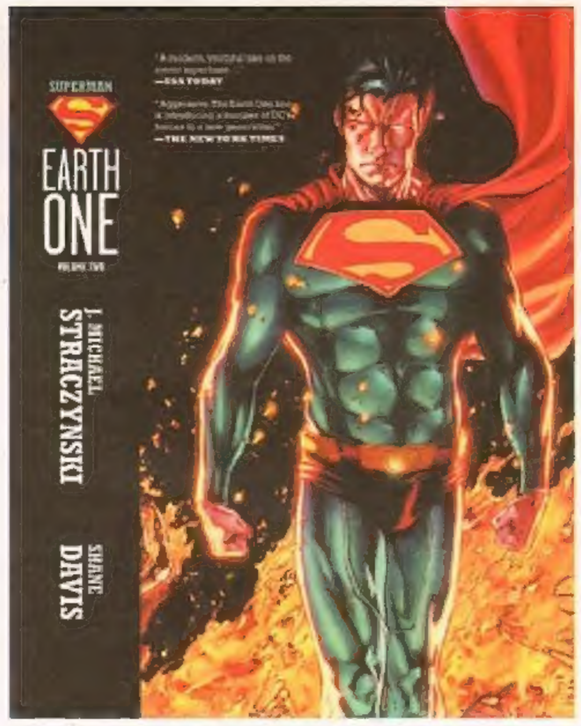
(DC AUG120209 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Phantom Stranger strikes a bargain with Lord Trigon that will have serious repercussions within the New 52 DCU.

Why Should You Care?

With a few panels in this year's DC FCBD comic, the Phantom Stranger was elevated from a B-team player to one of the most intriguing players in the New 52 Universe. And now *Dan DiDio & Brent Anderson* will reveal just how the Stranger's appearance will affect the DCU as we lead up to next year's ***Trinity War*** event.



SUPERMAN: EARTH ONE HC VOL 2

J. Michael Straczynski (W); Shane Davis (A)

(DC JUN120225 $22.99)

What's the Scoop?

Just when it appears that Clark Kent has found a partner in romance, an energy-absorbing Parasite shows up to threaten Metropolis, Superman, *and* Clark's love life!

Why Should You Care?

Straczynski & Davis return to the updated Superman they introduced in the best-selling ***Superman: Earth One Volume 1,*** further exploring his role in this streamlined version of the DCU. The gimmick here? He's the only superhero there is, and he's still learning how to balance the superheroic and the human.

SWORD OF SORCERY #1

Christy Marx & Anthony Bedard (W); Aaron Lopresti & Jesus Saiz (A)

(DC AUG120211 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The good news? Amy Winston can transform into Princess Amaya, protector of Gemworld! The bad news? It seems that her family wants to kill her!

Why Should You Care?

Christy Marx adds another powerful female character to the DCU with this revamp of the ***Amethyst*** concept. And if the post-apocalyptic is your thing, then you're going to *love Tony Bedard's* Beowulf backup feature...

TALON #1

Scott Snyder & James Tynion IV (W); Guillem March (A)

(DC AUG120173 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

After many years on the run from the Court of Owls, Calvin Rose returns to Gotham City to investigate the fallout from "Night of the Owls." Is it possible that the Court of Owls can be defeated?

Why Should You Care?

Spinning out of the New 52's most successful crossover story arc to date, ***Talon*** brings an intriguing new facet—and a powerful new character—to the Batman mythos.

TEAM 7 #1

Justin Jordan (W); Jesus Merino (A)

(DC AUG120222 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Now that superheroes have appeared in the New 52 DCU, the government needs a team of human operatives to serve as their experts in all things superhuman. And now Amanda Waller, Slade Wilson, Alex Fairchild, James Bronson, Cole Cash, Dinah Drake, and Kurt Lance are filling that role as Team 7.

Why Should You Care?

This series offers fascinating insights into humanity's response to the growing superhuman presence—and along the way, *Justin Jordan & Jesus Merino* let you see the New 52 DCU in a bold new way.

UNCANNY AVENGERS #1

Rick Remender (W); John Cassaday (A)

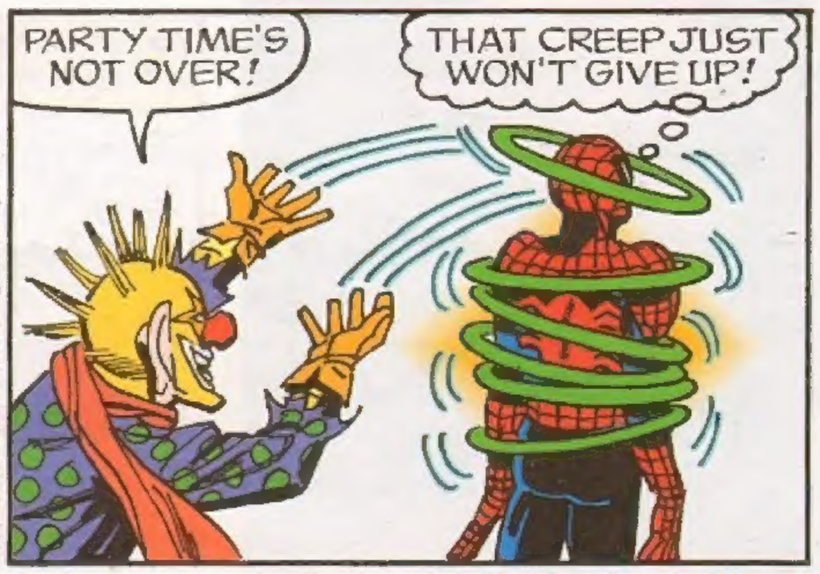
(Marvel AUG120550 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of ***Avengers Vs. X-Men,*** a new team emerges... a team whose ranks include Avengers and X-Men working together for a common good. But can even Captain America convince these former combatants to put their differences aside?

Why Should You Care?

Marvel's most epic superhero conflict paves the way for the most super of all super-teams!



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Collected Cool: October's Best Reprint Editions

ABSOLUTE FINAL CRISIS HC

(DC MAY120288 $99.99)

This oversized slipcased hardcover collection of the *Grant Morrison* epic is more than just reprint (although the material it reprints is worth the ticket price): it also includes seven new story pages by Morrison & *Doug Mahnke*, produced especially for this edition!

ACG COLLECTED WORKS: ADVENTURES INTO THE UNKNOWN HC VOL 2

(PS JUL121186 $47.99)

ACG COLLECTED WORKS: OF THE OF THE NIGHT HC

(PS JUL121187 $47.99)

ACG COLLECTED WORKS: SKELETON HAND HC VOL 1

(PS JUL121188 $47.99)

These PS Art Books reprints of classic ACG horror comics from the 1950s should be the model for everyone else's reprint volumes: every page is here, including ads, text features—the works! It's almost like having the original comics in bound editions!

ALIEN: ILLUSTRATED STORY ARTIST'S EDITION HC

(Titan APR121227 $75.00)

Taking a page from IDW's ***Artist's Edition*** guidebook, Titan offers this classic *Walter Simonson*-illustrated adaptation of the *Ridley Scott* film as a 14" x 17" hardcover reproduced in full color from Simonson's original art to show off pencils, blue-lines, corrections, and more.

DEATH: THE DELUXE EDITION HC

(Vertigo/DC JUN120272 $29.99)

This affordably priced hardcover collects both ***Death*** limited series along with a variety of short tales and more, all written by the incomparable *Neil Gaiman*.

MARVEL MASTERWORKS SGT. FURY HC VOL 4

(Marvel MAY120736 $69.99)

Perhaps one of Marvel's most underappreciated Silver Age titles, ***Sgt. Fury*** continued its transition from a hero adventure set against the backdrop of WWII to a well-crafted war series in these tales from *Sgt. Fury #s* 33-43.

MARVEL ZOMNIBUS HC

(Marvel APR120685 $125.00)

This tombstone-sized hardcover collects the first seven ***Marvel Zombies*** miniseries plus oneshots, guest appearances, and much more.

SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE FLASH TP VOL 4

(DC JUL120226 $19.99)

The *Carmine Infantino* era comes to an end with this volume, which reprints Flash #s 162-184 (the final 14 Infantino issues and the first part of the Andru-Esposito run).

SIMON & KIRBY LIBRARY HC: SCIENCE FICTION

(Titan JUL121228 $49.95)

At last, editor *Steve Saffel* is back with a new addition to the ***Simon & Kirby Library:*** a huge collection of science fiction adventure tales, many never seen since their original publication more than a half-century ago.

STAR TREK NEWSPAPER STRIP HC VOL 1

(IDW AUG120371 $49.99)

Most of you didn't even know that there *was* a ***Star Trek*** comic strip, did you? Well, here's your chance to discover this overlooked bit of ***Trek*** history with this volume reprinting the first two years of the syndicated strip.

VALIANT MASTERS BLOODSHOT HC VOL 1

(Valiant AUG121341 $24.99)

Valiant kicks off its reprint line with this collection of ***Bloodshot #s 1-8***—and as a bonus, they're adding an unseen story by the original creative team of *Kevin VanHook & Don Perlin*.

WALKING DEAD COMPENDIUM TP VOL 2

(Image AUG120496 $59.99)

Start reinforcing your bookshelves now: here comes another whopper of a volume collecting 48 more issues of the hit series—and it's only half the price of the eight trade paperbacks containing the same contents!

FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

ANNOTATED SANDMAN HC VOL 2

(Vertigo/DC JUN120271 $49.99)

Far more than just another reprint edition of *Neil Gaiman's* masterwork, these volumes present ***Sandman #s 21-39*** in black and white, complemented by *Leslie S. Klinger's* insightful annotations seasoned with frequent quotes from Gaiman himself.

FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET HC

(NBM AUG121210 $14.99)

Stephen Weiner looks at the history of graphic novels.

MARVEL COMICS: THE UNTOLD STORY HC

(Harper Collins JUL121368 $25.99)

This fascinating tome, filled with rarely seen bits of Marvel history, reveals how a small group of people on the cusp of failure created one of the most dominant popular cultural forces in contemporary America.

Hot Commodities: October's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

BEFORE WATCHMEN COMEDIAN STATUE

(DC Collectibles JUL120269 $149.95)

The rugged, brash, and uninhibited Comedian is brought into the third dimension in this statue sculpted by *Mat Brouillard*.

GHOST RIDER STATUE

(Gentle Giant FEB121614 $459.00)

This high-quality Gentle Giant sculpt depicts the fiery Johnny Blaze on his motorcycle, ready to race across hell itself in order to outrun his eternal punishment.

HARLEY QUINN BISHOUJO STATUE

(Kotobukiya MAY121905 $59.99)

This sculpture of Harley, based on an illustration by famed Japanese artist *Shunya Yamashita*, reinterprets the Joker's sycophantic ally in bishoujo style.

Check 'Em Out: Comics You Should Be Reading!

A-BABIES VS X-BABIES #1

(Marvel AUG120579 $3.99)

Skottie Young & Gurihiru present the pint-size version of *AvX*.

ACTION COMICS #13

(DC AUG120164 $3.99)

Superman must face down a threat from the Phantom Zone - with the help of The Phantom Stranger - in this *Grant Morrison* tale with a major twist.

AME COMI GIRLS #1 FEATURING WONDER WOMAN

(DC AUG120239 $3.99)

First issue of a new series inspired by the popular figures from DC Collectibles.

AVENGING SPIDER-MAN #13

(Marvel AUG120595 $4.99)

This issue guest stars Deadpool. Do we need to say anything more?

CASTLE: RICHARD CASTLE'S STORM SEASON PREMIUM HC

(Marvel JUL120637 $19.99)

Brian Michael Bendis, Kelly Sue DeConnick, & Emanuela Lupacchino "adapt" Derrick Storm's second novel—and that means that legions of ***Castle*** fans will have a new addition to their want list!

DC UNIVERSE PRESENTS #13

(DC AUG120156 $2.99)

Marc Andreyko & Robson Rocha present the New 52 debut of Black Lightning and Blue Devil.

GHOSTS #1

(Vertigo/DC AUG120285 $7.99)

Geoff Johns makes an all too rare trek into Vertigo territory as one of several writers whose haunted tales are featured in this collection of original ghost stories with a Vertigo edge.

LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT #1

(DC AUG120237 $3.99)

Damon Lindelof, Tom Taylor, & Jeff Lemire kick off this series featuring original, non-continuity short stories.

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE: THE ORIGIN OF SKELETOR #1

(DC AUG120278 $2.99)

Joshua Hale Fialkov & Frazer Irving look at the twisted origins of Eternia's most loathsome and terrible villain.

POWERS: BUREAU #1

(Icon/Marvel MAY120726 $3.95)

Brian Michael Bendis & Michael Avon Oeming launch the next chapter of the Eisner Award-winning Powers series by sending Deena Pilgrim into the big leagues.

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES ANNUAL 2012

(IDW AUG120321 $7.99)

TMNT co-creator *Kevin Eastman* both writes and illustrates this special standalone issue.

DID YOU REALLY THINK A FEW HOOPS WOULD STOP ME?
JUST WANTED TO SLOW YOU DOWN FOR A SECOND.
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—SO I COULD BLEND INTO MY SURROUNDINGS!
DIVING INTO A GAGGLE OF CLOWNS WON'T SAVE YOU!
DON'T BE TOO SURE!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
9-7

MY SPIDER SENSE WILL LEAD ME TO CLOWN-9!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT FINDING ME——
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
9-8
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FROM LEGENDARY COMICS SUPERSTAR

WALTER SIMONSON

THE JUDAS COIN

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SEPTEMBER 2012

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